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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/872,197	05/31/2001	L. Jeffrey Kapner III	K35A0807	1905

35219 7590 06/11/2007
WESTERN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
ATTN: RENEE FRANKS
20511 LAKE FOREST DR.
E-118H
LAKE FOREST, CA 92630

EXAMINER

USTARIS, JOSEPH G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/872,197	Applicant(s) KAPNER ET AL.	
Examiner Joseph G. Ustaris	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 20, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (US006564379B1) in view of Reichardt et al. (US20020124255A1).

Regarding claim 1, Knudson et al. (Knudson) discloses a client terminal (set-top box (STB) 48) connectable to a head end (television distribution facility 38) and a display device (television 52) (See Fig. 1). The head end provides program information including first program data associated with a first program and second program data associated with a second program (See column 3 lines 34-65). The client terminal

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comprises a channel input interface to receive program guide information (See Fig. 1, STB 48) and a user interface to receive a first input and a second input (See Figs. 1 and 3, remote control 54 and 60). Furthermore, the STB further serves as the terminal controller responsive to an OSD control program in order to successfully display images on the television (See Figs. 1 and 4). The STB displays an arrangement of a plurality of different channel identifiers on the display device during flip or browse mode (e.g. the display will display a plurality of different channel identifiers when the user operates the up and down cursors, such as 6 KRMA and 7 KMGH) (See Figs. 4 and 5). The user can switch from flip mode to browse mode by pressing one of the cursor keys or "selecting one of the plurality of different channel identifiers in response to the first input" (e.g. current flip mode displays "6 KRMA" and user switches to browse mode by pressing one of the cursor keys) (See column 7 lines 4-7). The browse display 70 in browse mode is a pop-up for the selected channel identifier, wherein the browse display 70 is displayed in response to the user pressing one of the cursor keys during the current flip mode and will still display the arrangement of the plurality of different channel identifiers (See Figs. 4 and 5; column 7 lines 4-7). The browse display 70 displays the first program data associated with the first program of the selected channel identifier (See Fig. 4, 6 KRMA Big Comfy couch 10:30 AM) in response to the first input (e.g. the first time the cursor keys are pressed) (See Fig. 4) and the user interface receives the second input (e.g. operating the cursor keys again during browse mode) while the pop-up is displaying the first program data and the browse display 70 displays a second program data associated with the second program of the selected channel identifier in

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response to the second input (e.g. the user presses the left or right cursor keys to view other program listings corresponding to the current channel identifier that occur prior or after 10:30 AM) (See Fig. 4; column 6 lines 26-50). However, Knudson does not explicitly disclose simultaneously displaying an arrangement of a plurality of different channel identifiers on the display device.

Reichardt et al. (Reichardt) discloses a similar interactive electronic program guide. Reichardt discloses that the electronic program guide system simultaneously displays an arrangement of a plurality of different channel identifiers on the display device (See Fig. 7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the electronic program guide display disclosed by Knudson to simultaneously display an arrangement of a plurality of different channel identifiers on the display device, as taught by Reichardt, in order to enhance the electronic program guide by allowing the user to see multiple items at the same time.

Regarding claim 2, the browse display 70 includes a next icon, such that the second input selects the next icon resulting in the display of a second program data that is associated with a second program that occurs after the first program (See Knudson Fig. 4, right arrow 72; column 6 lines 26-50).

Regarding claim 3, the browse display 70 includes a previous icon, such that the second input selects the previous icon resulting in the display of a second program data that is associated with a second program that occurs before the first program (See Knudson Fig. 4, left arrow 72; column 6 lines 26-50).

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Regarding claim 5, the program guide information displayed in the browse display includes a channel number (6), a channel identifier (KRMA), a program time (10:30 AM), and a title of the program (Big Comfy Couch) (See Knudson Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 6, the program guide information displayed in the browse display further includes a description of the program (the program occurs at 10:30 AM) (See Knudson Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 7, the channel identifiers represents broadcast channels or satellite channels (See Knudson column 3 line 59 – column 4 line 6).

Claim 9 contains the limitations of claim 1 (where inherently the STB runs a computer program embodied in a computer readable storage medium in order to successfully perform its functions) and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

Claim 10 contains the limitations of claims 2 and 9 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 11 contains the limitations of claims 3 and 9 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 13 contains the limitations of claims 5 and 9 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 14 contains the limitations of claims 6 and 13 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 15 contains the limitations of claims 7 and 9 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

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Claim 17 contains the limitations of claim 1 (wherein the STB performs the method) and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim.

Claim 18 contains the limitations of claims 2 and 17 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 19 contains the limitations of claims 3 and 17 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 21 contains the limitations of claims 5 and 17 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 22 contains the limitations of claims 6 and 21 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 23 contains the limitations of claims 7 and 17 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claims 4, 12, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (US006564379B1) in view of Reichardt et al. (US20020124255A1) as applied to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 above, and further in view of Alexander et al. (US006177931B1).

Claim 4 contains the limitations of claim 1 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim. However, Knudson in view of Reichardt does not disclose (1) a record icon resulting in the recording of the first program (2) in a local memory.

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(1) Alexander et al. (Alexander) discloses an electronic program guide that includes a record icon, whereupon when a user selects the record icon the system records the program (See Fig. 1, Record 46; column 7 line 58 – column 8 line 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the electronic program guide display disclosed by Knudson in view of Reichardt to include a record icon, such that the second input selects the record icon resulting in the recording of the first program, as taught by Alexander, in order to provide the user with easy access to record a program that is currently being watched so the user may watch the recorded program at a time that is more convenient.

(2) Knudson in view of Reichardt and Alexander does not expressly disclose storing the recorded program in local memory. Official Notice (MPEP 2144.03) is taken that both the concepts and advantages of recording in a local memory are well known and expected in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the recording be stored in a local memory in order to have a faster access to the recorded program.

Claim 12 contains the limitations of claims 4 and 9 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 20 contains the limitations of claims 4 and 17 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claims 8, 16, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (US006564379B1) in view of Reichardt et al. (US20020124255A1) as applied to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 above, and further in view of Jerding (US006463586B1).

Claim 8 contains the limitations of claim 1 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to that claim. However, Knudson in view of Reichardt does not disclose that the client terminal displays predetermined channel identifiers in a predetermined order set by the user.

Jerding discloses a service navigation system for an electronic program guide. Jerding discloses that a client terminal is able to display predetermined channel identifiers in a predetermined order set by the user (See column 3 lines 11-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the STB and program guide system disclosed by Knudson in view of Reichardt to be able to display predetermined channel identifiers in predetermined order set by the user, as taught by Jerding, in order to provide a electronic program guide that is more powerful and extensible than mere channel number navigation (See column 3 lines 11-19).

Claim 16 contains the limitations of claims 8 and 9 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Claim 24 contains the limitations of claims 8 and 17 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to those claims.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph G. Ustaris whose telephone number is 571-272-7383. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5 PM; Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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JGU

June 4, 2007



SCOTT E. BELIVEAU
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER